

In re application of: William L. Courtney
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103 flotation device or life jacket of claim 18 further including an inflatable raft disposed in a deflated state between the garment member and a user wearing the garment member.--.

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 9, 2002. In that Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract and Claim 2. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walters. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hallstrom. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the above noted claims and offers the foregoing amendments and following remarks in support thereof.

Claims 3-5 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 6-20 have been added. No new matter has been inserted. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections.

Applicant has amended the Abstract and claims to overcome the Examiner's objections and Section 112 rejections.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Walters. Walters fails to disclose that the personal flotation device is an inflatable collar. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hallstrom. Hallstrom also fails to discuss that the personal flotation device is an inflatable collar. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

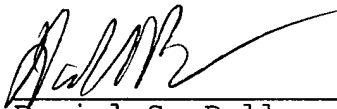
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Applicant has completely responded to the Office Action dated September 9, 2002.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The first page of the attached pages is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Polley, Reg. No. 34,902
Malin, Haley & DiMaggio, P.A.
1936 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316
(954) 763-3303

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

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ABSTRACT

[Disclosed is a] A multi-chambered [high] torque [PFD] personal flotation device for [powerful] corrective turning action of a weighted individual. The multi-chambered device is capable of being adjusted to provide a wide range of buoyancy as might be needed under differing degrees of ballistic protection. An eccentric mobile buoyant system complements [the] a massive displacement required to float the armored victim by providing the energy required to reliably initiate corrective turning action, regardless of the gear worn, position of water entry, or state of consciousness of the wearer. In the event the conscious victim desires to shed the body armor, a series of quick release [means] members allow[s] the victim to shed their ballistics vest while retaining their life jacket. The integrated life jacket upon separation from the heavily ballasted body armor continues to provide reliable airway protection. [The present inventions provides the unconscious victim with reliable corrective turning action and airway protection under the wide variety of conditions disclosed.]--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device[,] or life jacket, [or the like,] comprising:
a garment member; and
a personal flotation device attached to the garment member;
wherein said personal flotation device comprises an inflatable collar associated with the garment member.
2. (Amended) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal

flotation device[,] or life jacket[, or the like] of claim [1]3 wherein said garment member is body armor.

3. (Amended) [The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device, life jacket, or the like of claim 1] A garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket, comprising:

a garment member; and

a personal flotation device attached to the garment member;

wherein said personal flotation device comprises:

a first bladder;

a second bladder associated with said first bladder;

a first mobile buoyant assembly associated with said first bladder;

a second mobile buoyant assembly associated with said second bladder; and

means for inflating said first bladder and said second bladder.

4. (Amended) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device[,] or life jacket[, or the like] of claim 3 wherein said first mobile buoyant assembly is in communication with said first bladder through a flexible tube.

5. (Amended) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device[,] or life jacket[, or the like] of claim 3 wherein said means for inflating comprises:

a compressed gas cylinder; and

a detonator in communication with said compressed gas cylinder.

Please add the following new claims:

--6. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 3 wherein said first mobile buoyant assembly including a third bladder and said second mobile buoyant assembly including a fourth bladder.

7. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal

flotation device or life jacket of claim 6 further including at least one cover member for stowing said first bladder, said second bladder, said third bladder and said fourth bladder in their deflated states.

8. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 6 wherein said means for inflating also inflating said third bladder and said fourth bladder.

9. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 3 wherein said first bladder is attached to the garment member.

10. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 3 wherein said first bladder is attached to the garment member and said second bladder is attached to the garment member.

11. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 3 wherein said first bladder is attached to said second bladder.

12. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 3 wherein said first bladder is removably attached to the garment member.

13. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 1 wherein said inflatable collar comprises:

- a collar bladder; and
- means for inflating the collar bladder.

14. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 13 wherein said means for inflating comprises:

- a compressed gas cylinder; and
- a detonator in communication with said compressed gas cylinder.

15. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal

flotation device or life jacket of claim 1 wherein said inflatable collar having a first end and a second end; wherein when inflating the collar a bottom surface portion of the second end rides along a top surface portion of the first end until the collar is properly positioned for a neck size of a user.

16. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 15 further including means for retaining the position of the second end with respect to the first end.

17. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 16 wherein said means for retaining is a hook and loop assembly associated with the first end and the second end.

18. (New) A garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket, comprising:

- a garment member;
- a first bladder associated with the garment member;
- a second bladder associated with said first bladder;
- a third bladder associated with said first bladder;
- a fourth bladder associated with said second bladder; and
- means for inflating said first bladder, said second bladder, said third bladder and said fourth bladder.

19. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 18 further comprising an inflatable collar associated with the garment member.

20. (New) The garment integrated multi-chambered personal flotation device or life jacket of claim 18 further including an inflatable raft disposed in a deflated state between the garment member and a user wearing the garment member.--.

PA: GARMENT INTEGRATED MULTI-CHAMBERED
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE . . .

Serial No. 09/935,351

File No. 9297.6821

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the following correspondence:
AMENDMENT (IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED 09/09/2001);
TRANSMITTAL LETTER and RETURN POSTCARD FOR CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT
is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first
class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks, Attn: Box Assignments, Washington, D.C. 20231, on
this 9th day of December, 2002.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my
own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information
and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these
statements were made with the knowledge that willful false
statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or
imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United
States Code.

Any additional charges, including extension of time,
please bill our Account No. 13-1130.

Betty Bernal
Betty Bernal, Paralegal

Date: December 9, 2002

MALIN, HALEY & DiMAGGIO, P.A.
1936 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316
(954) 763-3303